

1/2 Pound - Montreal Division - Red Warehousing Stamps - 63 x 47 mm. - 1874-1883

[Chris Ryan, "Canadian Revenue Newsletter", No. 39, of May 2002]

"In September of 1869, the square BOX and CADDY excise stamps were supplemented by twelve new stamps in six denominations for consumption (black) and for warehouse (red). The denomination of these items represented the maximum weight of tobacco to which they could be affixed. Unlike other BABN tobacco stamps in use up to that time, the new denominated stamps were produced from steel plates (intaglio).

The *small* stamp was initially issued in denominations of one-quarter, one-half and one pound. In February of 1880 a one-tenth pound stamp was prepared for use in the Windsor Division. The duty collected by these stamps was to be the full amount represented by their denomination, regardless of the actual weight of tobacco in the package.

In September 1874 the Revenue Department authorized the preparation of the first Division-specific stamps for manufactured tobacco. These stamps bear the printed name of the Revenue Division and signature of its Collector in the spaces previously left blank to be filled in by hand or rubberstamp. The first of these personalized stamps were prepared for use in Montreal and Toronto. It is surmised that similar stamps for other Divisions were subsequently introduced overtime as warranted by numbers used."

The catalogue lists the 1/2 pound Montreal Division red warehousing stamps as follows:

RM-134 - 1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, perf 12, on *block wmkd* medium wove with 5 mm. controls - *Dunbar Browne*.

RM-135 - RM-134 stamped *J. L. Vincent / Acting Coll.* in black ink

1st BABN Contract (1868-1873)

John McKay reports that 35,000 copies of "1/2 lb. W. H. E. Red" were delivered. Prior to 1874, these would be "Division Open".

2nd BABN Contract (1873-1878)

John McKay reports that 20,000 copies of "1/2 lb. Red Tobacco" were delivered. Probably 10,000 for Montreal Division and 10,000 for the Toronto Division. This is his final listing for the 1/2 pound red stamp.

--- The "theoretical" control number range of the black 1/2 pound Montreal Division stamps ---

RM-134 - 1/2 pound red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove - *Dunbar Browne*

00001 to **10000**

RM-135 - RM-134 stamped *J. L. Vincent / Acting Coll.*

from the above

--- The "actual" control number range, as recorded to date ---

RM-134 - 1/2 pound red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove - *Dunbar Browne*

no numbered copies

RM-135 - RM-134 stamped *J. L. Vincent / Acting Coll.*

00280 to **00492**

--- 1/2 Pound - Montreal Division - Red Warehousing Stamps - 63 x 47 mm. - 1874 ---

--- printed on *block wmkd* medium wove at Ottawa under the 2nd BABN Contract - 63 x 47 mm. design ---

--- perf 12 - with 5 mm. controls - scanned at 100% scale - inscribed *Dunbar Browne Coll. I.R.* ---

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RM-135 - RM-134 stamped *J. L. Vincent / Acting Coll.* in black ink

Chris Ryan's research indicates that *Dunbar Browne* was replaced by *J.L. Vincent* on April 30th 1879

The collection **does not contain** a control-numbered copy of the *block watermarked* 1/2 pound "Montreal" red warehousing stamp - **WANTED!** It would seem, from the overprints that possibly about 280 copies of **RM-134** were used before *Dunbar Browne* was removed from office in 1879. Are used copies of **RM-134** extant?



★ **RM-134n** - 1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, perf 12, *block wmkd* medium wove, *without* control numbering

★ **RM-134n** - 1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, perf 12 (clipped), *block wmkd* medium wove, *without* control numbering



--- the upper left side scanned at 300% scale ---

The collection contains many of these clipped imperforate "TP" stamps (from the Morris collection) which under magnification shows signs of original perforation. I sincerely doubt that any philatelist would have mutilated the stamps in this manner. At the time it was illegal to possess tax-paid stamps in mint condition, and even used examples were by law to be broken on opening the package. I feel that BABN, as a favour to a philatelist, clipped the perforations prior to releasing these *control-free* stamps.

---- RM-135 - M-134 stamped *J. L. Vincent / Acting Coll.* in black ink ---



★ **RM-135** - 1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, perf 12, on *block wmkd* medium wove, with 5 mm. control **00295**, stamped *J.L. Vincent / Acting Coll.* in black ink

00280	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00291	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00295★	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00314	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00337	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00342	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00349	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00362	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00404-09	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove,
05-10	RM-135	a block of four
00429	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00431	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00432	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00439	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00444-49	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove,
45-50		a block of four
00456★	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00461-66	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove,
		a horizontal pair
00477	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove
00492	RM-135	1/2 pound, red, Montreal Division, on block wmkd medium wove

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 November 5th 2013, JBH